

Man's Greatest Need is God's Greatest Deed, Part 1 - Acts 13:14-19 - February 10th, 2008

- Paul & Barnabas are continuing their first missionary journey and end up in the area of Galatia which we know as modern day Turkey.
- Their trip from Perga to Antioch in Pisidia, is a 125 mile journey, and a climb from sea level to an altitude of about 4,000 feet.
- I know this sounds like a geography lesson, but not only should we know the geography, we should also know a little history.

- It's interesting to note that in AD 25, Pisidian Antioch was made capital of the Roman Province of Galatia, which is why Paul went there.
- It was the hub of a variety of different cultures likely due to the economic, military and religious activities in that area.
- It just made sense to go there for those reasons, and it would seem that this is where God was leading them to reach this population.

The remains of this Byzantine church are the traditional location of the synagogue that Paul preached in (Acts 13:14-52). Recent excavations have revealed a 1st century building underneath the church which has been identified as the synagogue. In the church a mosaic floor has been found with Psalm 42:4 inscribed on it. <http://www.bibleplaces.com/pantioch.htm>

- Paul is presented with the opportunity to preach a sermon here in this Synagogue, and we're given a snapshot of their worship service.
- First, the opening prayers were offered.
- Then, there was a reading from the Law.
- Then, there was a reading from the Prophets.
- Then, if someone educated was present, they would be invited to speak.

- Paul seizes this opportunity and as a result, Luke records for us Paul's first sermon. By the way it's also his longest recorded sermon.
- This "long" sermon of Paul's is packed full of so much, that I would like to sort up "un-pack" it, if you will in this teaching series.
- Paul's sermon back then, has application to us now, because it shows us what great things God does to meet man's great need.

- We'll look at a number of these, in this series, because all of them meet the nagging need of every man, woman and child.
- There is a common denominator in every need that God's hand hath provided, in that they strike at the core of who He is; a God of love.
- He loves us so much that He will stop at nothing, do anything, and work out everything for the good of those He loves and love Him.

1. Encouragement (Verses 14-16)

14 From Perga they went on to Pisidian Antioch. On the Sabbath they entered the synagogue and sat down. 15 After the reading from the Law and the Prophets, the synagogue rulers sent word to them, saying, "Brothers, **if you have a message of encouragement for the people**, please speak." 16 Standing up, Paul motioned with his hand and said: "Men of Israel and you Gentiles who worship God, listen to me!

v14 Tells us how they left Perga for Pisidian Antioch and went to the Synagogue on the Sabbath and sat down for the service.

v15 After the reading from the Pentateuch, the synagogue rulers invite Paul to speak a message of encouragement.

v16 Paul stands up, and motions with his hand accepting the invitation to speak then begins his sermon to both the Jews and Gentiles.

Acts 20:2 He traveled through that area, speaking many words of encouragement to the people, and finally arrived in Greece, NIV

Romans 15:4-5 4 For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. 5 May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you a spirit of unity among yourselves as you follow Christ Jesus, NIV

2 Thessalonians 2:16-17 16 May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, 17 encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word. NIV

2. Provision (Verses 17-18)

17 The God of the people of Israel chose our fathers; **he made the people prosper during their stay in Egypt**, with mighty power he led them out of that country, 18 he endured their conduct for about forty years in the desert,

v17 Paul tells them that God chose the patriarchs then provided for and even prospered the Israelites during their stay in Egypt.

v18 He goes on to say that not only did God provide for them by His mighty power in Egypt, but even for the 40 years after in the desert.

1 Timothy 6:17 Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment. NIV

3. Protection (Verse 19)

19 **he overthrew seven nations in Canaan** and gave their land to his people as their inheritance.

v19 Paul tells them about God protecting the Israelites by overthrowing seven nations in the land of Canaan and giving the land to them.

Psalms 116:5-6 5 The LORD is gracious and righteous; our God is full of compassion. 6 The LORD protects the simplehearted; when I was in great need, he saved me. NIV